

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:RWPRACHT:ERS

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT:RWPRACHT

EUR/CE-RCASAGRANDE

COMMERCE/OEA-CSEASWORD

DEFENSE/OSD-DSCHROEDER

RPE

----- 016524

P 022247Z PEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025305

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, GW, UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN GAS SEPARATION PLANT FOR THE USSR

REF: A) OECD PARIS 1795, B) COCOM DOC (75)1283

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED JAN. 29 BY GERMAN EMBASSY THAT GERMAN DEL WILL MAKE STATEMENT IN FEBRUARY 3 COCOM MEETING THAT GERMANS WITHDRAWING SUBJECT CASE FROM COCOM CONSIDERATION AND INTEND EXPORT PLANT AS PERMITTED UNDER AP 3 AS DESCRIBED REF A.

2. IN COMMENTING ON GERMAN ACTION, USDEL MAY NOTE THAT US UNDERSTANDS GERMAN POSITION IN VIEW OBVIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS TRANSACTION TO GERMANY. WE ALSO NOTE IMPORTANCE OF MAIN PRODUCT OF PLANT IN VIEW WORLD NEED FOR ENERGY SOURCES. HOWEVER, US IS
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CONCERNED THAT GERMAN ACTION MAY BE EXTENDING APPLICATION
AP 3 TO UNJUSTIFIED EXTENT AND MAY CONSTITUTE DANGEROUS
PRECEDENT FOR COCOM. US ALSO CONCERNED AT STRATEGIC
IMPORTANCE THIS EXPORT. US NOTES IN PARTICULAR THAT
HELIUM LIQUIFACTION EQUIPMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED AS NOT
INTEGRAL PART OF GAS SEPARATION PLANT SINCE LIQUIFACTION
IS NOT PART OF PRODUCTION PROCESS AND IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO
THE OPERATION OF THE PLANT. IT COULD THUS BE QUESTIONED
WHETHER THE HELIUM LIQUIFACTION EQUIPMENT IS A TRUE
"COMPONENT" IN SENSE OF AP 3. WE NOTE IN THIS REGARD
THAT IF LIQUIFACTION EQUIPMENT WERE REMOVED THE PLANT
ITSELF COULD QUALIFY UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE TO
SUB-ITEM 1110(C)(1). BECAUSE OF THE QUESTIONABILITY
OF PERMITTING EXPORT OF THE GAS LIQUIFACTION EQUIPMENT
AND RELATED STORAGE TANKS UNDER AP 3 AND THE STRATEGIC
APPLICATIONS OF LIQUID HELIUM, WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE
INCLUSION OF THESE ITEMS IN THE PROPOSED EXPORT. WE
THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE GERMANS NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE
THE GAS LIQUIFICATION EQUIPMENT AND RELATED LIQUID
STORAGE TANKS IN THE PROPOSED EXPORT. WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN RECEIVING GERMAN VIEWS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, NATURAL GAS, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE025305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWPRACHT:ERS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760039-0501
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760296/aaaagdem.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OECD PARIS 1795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970918
Subject: GERMAN GAS SEPARATION PLANT FOR THE USSR
TAGS: ESTC, GE, UR, COCOM, ESTC
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006